

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method of producing an output
bitstream of coded digital video data, with a bit-rate
different from the bit-rate of an input bitstream,
5 which comprises the steps of
dividing said input bitstream into a sequence
of coded data and a sequence of control bits;
modifying said sequence of control bits in
function of the different bit-rate of the output
10 bitstream that is desired, producing an output sequence
of control bits;
decoding said sequence of coded data
producing an intermediate sequence of data;
quantizing with a pre-established step and
15 coding said intermediate sequence of data producing an
output sequence of coded data;
merging said output sequences producing said
output bitstream with the desired bit-rate.
2. The method of claim 1, in which said
sequence of intermediate data is dequantized before
being quantized with said pre-established step.
3. The method according to one of the
claims 1 or 2, in which said bitstreams are of MPEG
coded digital video pictures, and said decoding and
coding steps respectively consist in
5 performing a Huffman decoding followed by a
Run-Length decoding, and
performing a Run-Length coding followed by a
Huffman coding.

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4. The method of claim 3, wherein said pre-established quantization step is determined by a feed-backward rate control technique.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein said pre-established quantization step is determined by a feed-backward/forward hybrid rate control technique.

6. A device for producing a bitstream of coded digital video data with a bit-rate different from the bit-rate of an input bitstream of coded digital video data comprising

5 a first circuit block separating said input bitstream in a sequence of coded data and in a sequence of control bits;

a second circuit block fed with said sequence of control bits and outputting a modified sequence of control bits in function of the desired different bit rate;

a decoder of said sequence of coded data, producing an intermediate sequence of data;

15 a quantizer with a pre-established step of said intermediate sequence of data

an encoder in cascade of the output of said quantizer producing an output sequence of coded data;

20 a third circuit block merging said output sequence of coded data and said modified sequence of control bits producing said output bitstream with the desired bit-rate.

7. The device of claim 6 comprising a dequantizer of said intermediate sequence of data before said quantizer.

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8. The device according to claim 6 or 7 wherein said bitstreams are of MPEG coded digital video data and said decoder and said encoder consist respectively of

5 a Huffman decoder followed by a Run-Length decoder, and

a Run-Length coder followed by a Huffman coder.

9. The device according to anyone of the claims from 6 to 8, wherein said quantization step of said quantizer is set by a bit rate control block coupled to said encoder, and

5 said third circuit block comprising at least a multiplexer functionally coupled the outputs of said first circuit block, of said second circuit block and of said encoder.

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